

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 12-17-08)

7,063

Shipments received since opening
(6,868 CH and 195 RH)

57,873

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(57,790 CH and 83 RH)

108,188

Containers disposed in the
underground
(107,993 CH and 195 RH)

Dr. Steven Chu nominated as Secretary of Energy

On December 15, President-Elect Obama announced the nomination of Dr. Steven Chu to be the next Secretary of Energy. Dr. Chu is director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and professor of physics and molecular and cellular biology at University of California, Berkeley. Winner of the Nobel Prize for physics in 1997, Dr. Chu served on the technical staff at AT&T Bell Labs (1978-1987) and was a professor in the physics and applied physics departments at Stanford University (1987-2004). He has a BS in physics from the University of Rochester and his Ph.D from UC-Berkeley.

Source: Office of the President-Elect, <http://change.gov>

Work on essential projects at WIPP proceeds



The 700B exhaust fan refurbishment is complete. The fan is one of several at WIPP that pull fresh air through the mine.

The site's extended maintenance outage, which has temporarily curtailed shipments and waste handling operations at WIPP, has been going on since November and will continue into January. The outage allows time for facility modifications and repairs to be made to ensure continued safety and plant reliability.

A number of essential projects will be completed while the outage is in effect.

"Our goal is to safely complete the work so we can resume our mission and minimize the impact to the generator sites," said John VandeKraats, Extended Maintenance Outage Project Manager.

Two of the essential projects, the Electrical Substation #4 retrofit and the 700B Exhaust Fan refurbishment have been completed, while four other projects are expected to be completed on schedule.

Employee involvement high at WIPP Safety Fair

Employees turned out in high numbers last week to participate in the WIPP Safety Fair. This was the second safety fair held at WIPP this year. Rather than having a single annual event, organizers now plan for two safety fairs each year to continually raise the level of safety awareness.

The fair spanned two days. The first day of events was held at the WIPP site and the second at the Skeen-Whitlock Building. The fair featured a wide array of booths sponsored by WIPP participants, departments and committees. Fair-goers won prizes for correctly answering safety questions, responding to surveys and



New Mexico State Mine Inspector Terence Foreback addresses safety fair participants at the WIPP site.



A drawing for one of six carbon monoxide detectors given away by WTS Business Management's Office Safety Safari booth.



The Conduct of Operations Committee booth raffled a rechargeable LED miner's light for mine safety.

Fire Safety Reminder: Take the stairs

In the event of fire, remember to use the stairs and not the elevator. Take time to familiarize yourself with the locations of stairs and emergency exits.

participating in safety activities. Managers showed their appreciation for employees by serving hamburgers, hot dogs and hot links.



Employees enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and hot links.

New Mexico State Mine Inspector Terence Foreback attended the WIPP site event to recognize employees for safety efforts that earned WTS the Safe Operator of the Year Award for the 22nd consecutive year and the Safety and Health Innovator Award. The awards had been presented to WTS at the annual meeting of the New Mexico Mining Association in September.

Based on its record of safety, WIPP has maintained star status in the DOE's Voluntary Protection Program since 1994.

"Safety comes before everything else at WIPP," said WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif. "No matter what we are working on, the importance of stopping to reinforce our safety awareness cannot be overstated. I appreciate the time everyone has taken to plan and participate in the safety fair. Any time spent focusing attention on safety is time well spent."

The safety fair was organized by the WTS Safety Awareness Committee and was open to all WIPP companies and organizations.

This was the first experience at a WIPP safety fair for CBFO employee Margaret Gee.

"The fair was impressive," said Gee. "It was pulled off with such organization. I'm looking forward to the next one!"

DOE extends public comment period

The DOE has issued a notification in the Federal Register extending the comment period on the Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement by 90 days. In the last issue of TRU TeamWorks, the end of the comment period was listed as December 16. The revised deadline is now March 16, 2009.

For information on GNEP or to find out how to submit comments on the draft document, visit www.gnep.energy.gov.

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.

Warm wishes



The volunteer Blanket Brigade sponsored by Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) continues through New Year's Eve. WTS employees, in conjunction with Washington Regulatory and Environmental Services and other subcontractors loan blankets to visitors to the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce's Christmas on the Pecos. The event draws thousands of people from across the state and the nation. The visitors above are from Albuquerque and are considering making the event an annual holiday tradition.

WTS receives President's Award for Safety Excellence

WTS was one of five URS projects in the country to receive the President's Award for Safety Excellence in 2008. It is the company's sixth time to receive this award. To qualify for the president's award, WTS completed 1 million consecutive exposure hours without a lost-time accident in excess of 12 months' time.



Signs of the season



Christmas spirit came early to CBFO, but it wasn't St. Nick. Santa's helper was Margaret Gee (above), who adorned her department's area with a candy store theme complete with penquins, toy soldiers and stuffed bears. Is the big bear hers? No, actually it's on loan from her three-year-old son, Samuel.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season!

The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

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suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](https://www.teamworks.com)

